implemented by NGOs sponsored by the State Governments and endorsed by the administrative Ministry in the Government of India, as also by international organizations like the World Food Programme.

(xi) The Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic) of wheat is being implemented by Government. Under this Scheme, wheat is sold in the open market by FCI to liquidate the surplus stocks of wheat and at the same time to moderate the price of wheat in the open market. The price of wheat under the OMSS (D) are fixed every month by Food Corporation of India. During the period April, 2001 to February, 2002, a total qty. of 39.17 lakh M.Ts. of wheat has been sold under the Scheme by the FCI as against 9.09 lakh M.Ts. during the preceding year.

As a result of these measures, offtake of foodgrains from the Central Pool has increased to over 230 lakh tonnes during the first 10 months (April—January) as compared with the offtake of 136.8 lakh tonnes during the corresponding period of last year. The increase in offtake works out to 93.2 lakh tonnes (68.27%).

Recently, reduction in the APL CIPs by Rs. 100/- per qtl. in respect of wheat and rice for a period of three months from 1.4.2002 to 1.6.2002 has been effected. The scale of issue for APL, BPL and Antyodaya households @ 35 Kg. per household per month is being fixed and allocation to the States/UTs. is accordingly increased. The scale of issue for all welfare institutions and hostels uniformly @ 15 Kg. Per head per month and addl. Allocation equal to 5% of the BPL allocation to States/UTs. at BPL CIPs on this account. Sales of 50 lakh M.Ts. of wheat and 10 lakh M.Ts of rice under the Open Market Sale Scheme(Domestic) of wheat has been allowed.

Foodgrains Management Policy

2685. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any new "Foodgrains Management Policy" is in the anvil of Government;

(b) whether there would be any modification in the present concept of fixing Mininum Support Price for foodgrains;

(c) whether there is any plan to involve private trade in food procurement alongwith cooperatives and other organizational bodies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) The Government of India has constituted a High Level Committee (HLC) to formulate a Long Term Grain Policy under the Chairmanship of Prof. Abhijit Sen the former Chairman of Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices. The final report of the HLC is expected in May, 2002. The recommendations made by the HLC will be duly examined and the new grain policy formulated expeditiously.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

Formulation of a Long-term Grain Policy

2686. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the high level Committee for formulating a long term grain policy for the country has submitted its report; and

(b) if so, whether Government had approved its recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.